

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**
Date: July 15, 2005

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**GOV. EASLEY REMINDS SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS AFFECTED BY 2004 STORMS
THAT DEADLINE FOR LOAN APPLICATION IS JULY 30**

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today urged small business owners who were impacted by the 2004 hurricanes to apply for assistance through the Business Recovery Assistance Program by the July 30 deadline.

“With several named storms already taking their toll this season, we must do all we can do help those whose businesses were harmed by the 2004 hurricanes get back on their feet,” Easley said. “These funds are designed to do just that, and money is still available.”

A total of \$13 million was allocated through the Hurricane Recovery Act of 2005 to support business recovery assistance in four categories: federal disaster local interest rebates, direct state disaster loans, assistance in applying or reapplying for federal disaster loans, and continued support for state loan recipients.

Easley also reminded those who received a Small Business Administration business disaster loan that they are eligible for a rebate on the first three years of interest.

The first loan was issued on April 25. To date, about \$8.1 million in loans have been approved to applicants throughout the 50 disaster-declared counties. The loans and rebates dispersed so far support more than 1,300 jobs in North Carolina, most of them in the western part of the state.

The N.C. Department of Commerce is responsible for administrative oversight of the Business Recovery Assistance Program, which is part of the overall Operation Brighter Day hurricane relief program. The Small Business and Technology Development Center (SBTDC), the business development center of the University of North Carolina, is responsible for providing on-site assistance to business owners who want to apply for relief.

For additional information on the program or how to contact the office nearest you, call the SBTDC at 1-800-258-0862 or visit its website at: www.sbtcdc.org/disaster.

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